

Application Serial Number 10/646,577
Dated: March 15, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated: February 24, 2006

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cowl grille structure for positioning in a longitudinal space between a lower edge of a motor vehicle windshield and a rear edge of a motor vehicle hood with the cowl grille extending laterally across the vehicle, characterized in that:

the cowl grille structure includes a molded main body planar leaf screen plate portion for positioning in the space to define the cowl structure for the vehicle, the planar plate portion defining a series of laterally spaced grille openings to allow the entry of fresh air into the vehicle, the planar plate portion further defining a washer fluid channel extending laterally along a forward edge of the main body plate portion and formed integrally with the main body plate portion, and the planar plate portion further defining mounting housing structure molded integrally with the main body plate portion and forming a plurality of laterally spaced, rearwardly opening cavities for receiving a plurality of windshield washer nozzle members with each ~~nozzle member cavity~~ in fluid communication with the channel whereby windshield washer fluid may be delivered to the nozzle members through the channel.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) A cowl grille structure according to claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the cowl grill further defines integral connector passages extending rearwardly from the channel and interconnecting the channel and the cavities and their respective housing structures and the cowl grille structure further includes a nozzle member inserted into the cavity in each nozzle housing structure and operative to direct fluid received through the channel and a respective connector passage against the vehicle windshield.

6. (Cancelled).

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7. (Original) A method of forming a cowl grille structure for positioning between a lower edge of a motor vehicle windshield and a rear edge of the motor vehicle hood, the method comprising:

molding a main body planar leaf screen portion;

forming a washer fluid channel extending along the main body portion; and

molding mounting housing structure on and integrally with the main body portion for receiving a windshield washer nozzle member with the nozzle member in fluid communication with the channel whereby windshield washer fluid may be delivered to the washer nozzle member through the channel in the main body portion.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein the channel is formed integrally with the main body portion utilizing a gas assisted molding step.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein:
the channel comprises an elongated channel extending laterally along an molded integrally with the main body portion; and

the mounting housing structure comprises nozzle housing structures formed integrally on an upper face of the main body portion at laterally spaced locations and each defining a cavity in fluid communication with the channel.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein the method includes the further step of forming integral connector passages extending rearwardly from the channel and interconnecting the channel and the cavities in the respective housing structures.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10 wherein the cowl grille structure further includes a nozzle member inserted into the cavity in each housing structure and operative to direct fluid received through the channel and a respective connector passage against the vehicle windshield.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 7 wherein:

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the cowl grille structure further includes a molding secured along a rear edge of the main body portion between the rear edge of the main body portion and the lower edge of the motor vehicle windshield; and
the molding is configured to define the channel.

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Currently Amended) A cowl grille structure according to claim ~~13~~ 1 wherein the washer fluid channel is formed in a gas assisted molding step.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) A cowl grille structure according to claim ~~15~~ 1 wherein the cowl grille further defines integral connector passages extending rearwardly from the channel and interconnecting the channel and the cavities in the respective nozzle housing structures.

17. (Original) A cowl grille structure according to claim 16 wherein the cowl grille structure further includes a nozzle member inserted into the cavity in each nozzle housing structure and operative to direct fluid received through the channel and a respective connector passage against the vehicle windshield.

18. (Original) A method of forming a cowl grille structure for positioning between a lower front edge of a motor vehicle windshield and a rear edge of the motor vehicle hood, the method comprising:

molding a main body planar leaf screen portion;

molding a washer fluid channel extending along and integral with the main body portion; and

molding a mounting housing structure on the main body portion for receiving a windshield washer nozzle member with the nozzle member in fluid communication with the integral channel whereby windshield washer fluid may be delivered to the washer nozzle member through the integral channel in the main body portion.

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19. (Original) A method according to claim 18 wherein the integral channel is formed utilizing a gas assisted molding step.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 18 wherein:
the channel comprises an elongated channel extending laterally along the main body portion; and
the mounting housing structure comprises nozzle housing structures formed on an upper face of the main body portion at laterally spaced locations and each defining a cavity in fluid communication with the channel.

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Currently Amended) A cowl grille structure for positioning in a longitudinal space between a lower edge of a motor vehicle windshield and a rear edge of a motor vehicle hood with the cowl grille extending laterally across the vehicle, characterized in that:

the cowl grille structure includes a molded main body planar leaf screen plate portion defining a plurality of laterally spaced grille openings to allow the entry of fresh air into the vehicle, a washer fluid channel extending laterally along the main body plate portion, and mounting housing structure molded integrally with the main body plate portion for receiving a windshield washer nozzle member with the nozzle member in fluid communication with the channel whereby windshield washer fluid may be delivered to the nozzle member through the channel;

the channel ~~being~~ is defined by a molding secured along a rear edge of the main body portion between the rear edge of the main body portion and the lower edge of the motor vehicle windshield.